

CLAIMS

What is Claimed is:

1 1. In a wireless communication network comprising a plurality of terrestrial
2 receivers and terrestrial transmitters, each serving a service region, a method of providing
3 at least a portion of digital data to a user, comprising the steps of:

4 (a) receiving the portion of the digital data in a satellite receiver;

5 (b) providing the received portion of the digital data to at least one of the
6 terrestrial transmitters; and

7 (c) transmitting the received portion of the digital data to the user within the
8 service region.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the satellite receiver is communicatively
2 coupled to the terrestrial transmitter.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless communication network is a
2 cellular telephone network.

1 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
2 determining if a transmission requirement of the digital data exceeds a capacity of
3 the wireless communication network; and
4 performing steps comprising steps (a) through (c) only if the transmission
5 requirements of the digital data exceed the capacity of the wireless communication
6 network.

1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the step of determining if a transmission
2 requirement of the portion of the digital data exceeds a capacity of the wireless
3 communication network comprises the steps of:
4 determining the transmission requirement for the portion digital data;
5 determining the transmission capacity of the wireless communication network;
6 and
7 comparing the transmission requirements for the digital data with the transmission
8 capacity of the wireless communication network.

1 6. The method of claim 4, further comprising the steps of:
2 providing the portion of the digital data to a satellite uplink, uplinking the portion
3 of the digital data from the satellite uplink to a satellite, and transmitting the digital data
4 only if the transmission requirements of the portion of the digital data exceed the capacity
5 of the wireless communication network.

1 7. The method of claim 4, wherein the transmission requirement comprises a
2 minimum bandwidth.

1 8. The method of claim 4, wherein the transmission requirement comprises a
2 size of the media program.

1 9. The method of claim 4, wherein the transmission requirement comprises a
2 quality of service (QoS) parameter.

1 10. The method of claim 4, wherein the transmission requirement comprises a
2 cost of service parameter.

1 11. The method of claim 4, further comprising the steps of:
2 receiving information describing in which service region the user is located; and
3 transmitting the digital data only to a satellite receiver associated with the service
4 region in which the user is located.

1 12. In a wireless communication network comprising a plurality of terrestrial
2 receivers and terrestrial transmitters, each serving a service region, an apparatus for
3 providing at least a portion of digital data to a user, comprising:
4 means for receiving the portion of the digital data in a satellite receiver; and
5 means for providing the received portion of the digital data to at least one of the
6 terrestrial transmitters for transmission to the user.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising means for transmitting the
2 portion received digital data to the user within the service region using the terrestrial
3 transmitter.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the wireless communication network is
2 a cellular telephone network.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising:
2 means for determining if a transmission requirement of the digital data exceed a
3 capacity of the wireless communication network; and
4 means for providing the portion of the digital data to at least one of the terrestrial
5 transmitters only if the transmission requirements of the digital data exceed the capacity
6 of the wireless communication network.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the means for determining if a
2 transmission requirement of the digital data exceeds a capacity of the wireless
3 communication network comprises:

4 means for determining the transmission requirement for the digital data;

5 means for determining the transmission capacity of the wireless communication
6 network; and

7 means for comparing the transmission requirements for the digital data with the
8 transmission capacity of the wireless communication network.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising:
2 means for providing the digital data to a satellite uplink, uplinking the digital data
3 from the satellite uplink to a satellite, and transmitting the digital data only if the
4 transmission requirements of the digital data exceed the capacity of the wireless
5 communication network.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the transmission requirement
2 comprises a minimum bandwidth.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the transmission requirement
2 comprises a size of the media program.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the transmission requirement
2 comprises a quality of service (QoS) parameter.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the transmission requirement
2 comprises a cost of service parameter.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising:
2 means for receiving information describing in which service region the user is
3 located; and
4 means for transmitting the digital data only to a satellite receiver associated with
5 the service region in which the user is located.

1 23. In a wireless communication network comprising a plurality of terrestrial
2 receivers and terrestrial transmitters, each serving a service region, an apparatus for
3 providing at least a portion of a digital data to a user, comprising:
4 a satellite antenna, for receiving a signal from a satellite, the signal including the
5 portion of the digital data; and
6 a satellite receiver communicatively coupled to the satellite antenna for detecting
7 and demodulating the signal to produce the portion of the digital data, the satellite
8 receiver communicatively coupled to the terrestrial transmitter.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the communication network is a
2 cellular telephone network.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the satellite antenna is disposed within
2 the service region.

1 26. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the satellite antenna is disposed
2 proximate the terrestrial transmitter.